

**RICHMOND RISING
COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE (CSC)
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 8, 2024
6:00-8:00 P.M.**

**NEVIN COMMUNITY CENTER
598 NEVIN AVE. RICHMOND, CA 94801**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

At 6:03 p.m., Committee member Guerrero calls the meeting to order, greets attendees, and declares the availability of live Spanish interpretation, free childcare, and refreshments

Roll Call:

- Present: Project lead for City of Richmond: Beatriz Guerrero Auna
- Present: Project lead for GRID Alternatives: Ambessa Cantave
- Present: Project lead for Groundwork: Absent
- Present: Project lead for Trust for Public Land: Terence Wu
- Present: Project lead for UC Berkeley: Alice Bruno (alternate)
- Present: Project lead for Urban Tilth: Chito Floriano
- Present: Project lead for Rich City Rides: Mayeli Rico (alternate)

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Committee member Guerrero reads TCC land acknowledgement, which has been reviewed by all partners:

- While Richmond Rising seeks to strengthen the economy, improve public health and the environment – particularly in the Iron Triangle, Santa Fe and Coronado Neighborhoods, we do so with the awareness that we occupy unceded Huichin and Karkin Ohlone territory.
- We acknowledge that land theft of indigenous homelands, and the dismantling of indigenous sovereignty, was done to advance colonization.
- We acknowledge that capitalism and white supremacy are branches of colonization that have persisted throughout hundreds of years of oppression, are alive today, and contribute to keeping Black, Indigenous, and all other People of Color from thriving.
- We further acknowledge that this country's political economy and social institutions were built on the forced labor of African people on stolen land through violent, systematic abduction from their homelands and enslavement over hundreds of years.
- We further acknowledge the exploitation of immigrant and refugee communities as modern forms of cheap and disposable labor are regularly carried out on stolen land.

- Thus, we acknowledge that we have been impacted and harmed by these histories and experiences imposed on our ancestors and communities. We further uplift the shared struggle among Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.
- We also acknowledge that indigenous people continue to live here, steward the land, and resist settler colonialism.
- We conclude that our Land acknowledgement is an active and evolving statement and process. It requires us to recognize historical injustices and invites us in to be active participants in our collective healing.

****Groundwork Richmond Project Lead Lorena Castillo arrives at 6:06pm****

RICHMOND RISING AND COLLABORATIVE STAKEHOLDER STATEMENT

Committee member Guerrero introduces Richmond Rising, including project background and support from California Strategic Growth Council's Transformative Climate Communities Program. Committee member Guerrero then gives background on Collaborative Stakeholder Committee, including roles and responsibilities of Committee Members.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Committee member Guerrero requests comments from members of the public for items on the agenda. The following public comments are received:

Public Comment: There was not enough communication regarding the grant. Please explain what the grant is for and what the money is for.

CSC Response: Committee member Guerrero responds that the grant is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other toxins, that each project is at a different stage in the implementation process, and that additional details will be shared during the project status reports.

Public Comment: Where was community input received from? How have residents had an opportunity to engage in the project?

CSC Response: Committee member Guerrero responds that the planning of the overall program included community engagement, as does the design and implementation of specific projects. Committee member Guerrero also responds that representatives have presented at associated Neighborhood Councils, and that members of the CSC are interested in attending other Neighborhood Council meetings but are waiting to hear back from the Councils. Committee member Floriano also responded that contract execution for a majority of projects occurred in August, and that project-specific community outreach and engagement is just beginning. Committee member Cantave also responded that GRID and MCE conducted outreach at various public forums, including the Iron Triangle Neighborhood Council in November, and that they are waiting for confirmation from the Coronado and Santa Fe Neighborhood Councils to present. Committee member Guerrero also responded that on April 3rd, the City received a full list of addresses in the project area, to support outreach and engagement efforts going forward. Committee member Guerrero also stated that the project is still in the beginning stages, which is why the Committee is still reviewing bylaws for approval. Committee member Guerrero also shared that the CSC is working on a nomination form and flyer to encourage members of the public to apply for nomination to the CSC.

Public Comment: Many of the features of the projects have already been determined. How will community input be incorporated? What input is being sought?

CSC Response: Committee member Guerrero responded that many of the projects require additional design-related community input. Committee member Guerrero also notes that there are many programs that people will benefit from, and so engagement is also intended to help community members be aware of the programs.

Public Comment: If millions of dollars have already been spent, why is the CSC only just beginning to meet?

CSC Response: Committee member Guerrero responded that total reimbursements have not yet reached \$1 million, and that a majority of funds expended have been used to pay for staff, to execute contracts, and preparation to operationalize the projects. Committee member Guerrero also responded that the public kickoff is April 20th, that public engagement will more fully begin at that time, and that the CSC encourages public engagement and partnership to ensure maximum impact.

Public Comment: How will spending information be public?

CSC Response: Committee member Guerrero responded that there is a rigorous bimonthly reporting process that occurs every two months, and that each monthly CSC meeting will include an update on total project expenditures.

Public Comment: Is it up to the community to get the grant?

CSC Response: Committee member Guerrero responded that the State has already awarded the grant to Richmond Rising, in a very competitive grantmaking process.

Public Comment: Did the City of Richmond write the grant?

CSC Response: Committee member Guerrero responded that the City of Richmond partnered with project partners to apply for the grant.

Public Comment: How will the CSC ensure all three neighborhoods (Coronado, Santa Fe, Iron Triangle) will be equally benefitted by this program? What is being done for each neighborhood?

CSC Response: Committee member Guerrero responds that each project is different – some projects are connected to specific roadway improvements such as bus stops, bike lanes, and measures to slow traffic; other projects such as Resilient Homes and Bosque del Barrio are at specific homes or in public locations throughout all three neighborhoods. Committee member Guerrero noted that community engagement is a key element of all projects. Committee member Guerrero also noted that the eBike hub locations are still being determined.

Public Comment: How have seniors been involved in this project?

CSC Response: Committee member Floriano indicated that several senior homes in the Project Area were engaged for design of the ADA Garden to be constructed at Unity Park.

Public Comment: That only includes seniors from that neighborhood though.

CSC Response: Committee member Floriano responded that Urban Tilth intends to do outreach, programming, and events that engage seniors in all neighborhoods.

Public Comment: Is Rich City Rides still a group? I haven't seen them in 2 years.

CSC Response: Committee member Guerrero responds that Rich City Rides is still a group, and indicates that Project Lead alternate Mayeli Rico is in attendance.

Public Comment: How did the CSC members get chosen?

CSC Response: Committee member Guerrero describes that each member is a Project Lead for one of the partner organizations, and each member introduces themselves. Additionally, staff from partner organizations that were attending as members of the public introduced themselves.

Public Comment: How many CSC members live in Richmond?

CSC Response: CSC members who live in Richmond raise their hand.

Public Comment: All CSC members are invited to attend the Neighborhood Council meetings of Santa Fe, Coronado, and Iron Triangle.

Public Comment: Additional outreach should be done. What is the current outreach plan?

CSC Response: Committee member Guerrero responded that there are many avenues for outreach, including neighborhood councils, social media, the Earth Day kickoff event, and working with partners such as Pogo Park to engage the local community. Committee member Guerrero also asked the commenter for suggestions on how this could be improved.

Public Comment: There should be clear communication about how the project benefits community members, to excite them and make them more interested. This could include specific program details, or incentives such as gift cards.

CSC Response: Committee member Bruno also suggested fliers or posters that could be distributed for each CSC meeting. Committee member Cantave suggested a QR code could be added to each flyer/poster with additional information.

PROJECT STATUS REPORTS

Project Leads presented project status reports for each project and Transformative Plan of the Richmond Rising collaborative, including up-to-date financials and grant expenditures to date.

CSC members did not have questions or comments regarding the presentations. The following public comments and questions were received:

Project #1: Neighborhood Complete Streets

Public Comment: What is this project doing? Where is it happening?

Response: City of Richmond Project Manager Josef Munoz showed members of the public a map of the project area and described features of the project.

Project #4: Resilient Homes for Healthy Communities

Public Comment: How has engagement on this project occurred? What is the address of the completed solar client?

Response: MCE Project Manager Alejandro Castelan responded that all energy efficiency and electrification projects have occurred through canvassing and knocking on doors.

Public Comment: How were the two clients who received the upgrades selected?

Response: MCE Project Manager Alejandro Castelan and GRID Committee member Cantave responded that these were found by door-to-door canvassing.

Public Comment: If a member of the public wanted these services, how would they be able to receive them?

CSC Response: Committee member Cantave responded that interested members of the community should reach out directly to the CSC, or to individual organizations.

Project #6: Bosque del Barrio:

Public Comment: When Groundwork Richmond plants trees, how deep and wide are the trees planted? Does Groundwork Richmond put down mulch, water, or soil?

CSC Response: Committee member Castillo responded that Groundwork Richmond digs a 6-foot by 6-foot hole, uses mulch for all trees, and uses amendments when soil testing indicates it is necessary. Committee member Castillo also responded that, for trees planted at home, they work with residents on best practices for watering and care, and can support residents as needed. Committee member Castillo added that, for trees in public parks, Groundwork takes care of trees for the first 3 years and then it is the City's responsibility. Committee member Castillo also added that Groundwork does tree replacements if a tree dies.

Public Comment: Where are the trees from?

CSC Response: Committee member Castillo responded that this depends on availability, but Double Mountain, Sweet Lane, and Western Star are common.

Public Comment: Where are the trees planted?

CSC Response: Committee member Castillo responded that trees have been planted at Burg Park, Booker T. Anderson Park along the creek, Lucas Park, and at individual residences.

Public Comment: The trees planted at Lucas Park aren't strong enough. It doesn't seem like the trees there are doing well.

CSC Response: Committee member Castillo responded that Groundwork will go to the park and look at the trees, as the first few years are the most important. Committee member Castillo also responded that Groundwork does a bark test and other caretaking to ensure trees are healthy, and that sometimes trees don't look healthy but they will survive.

Project #8: Orchard for All!:

Public Comment: Does Urban Tilth work on other parks, or just Unity Park?

CSC Response: Committee member Floriano responded that Urban Tilth mostly manages parks along the Greenway, but these parks and projects are intended to benefit residents in all three neighborhoods.

Project #10: E-Bike Share:

Public Comment: Based on the report, the plan for the next two months is that additional bikes will go out. Where will these bikes be located?

Response: Ride Today Community Manager Salma Berumen responded that part of her role is to survey the community to identify locations for bike hubs and additional bicycles. She also responded that each hub can have between 5-12 bikes total, depending on community input, and that Ride Today will be responsible for bike servicing 24 hours a day.

Public Comment: What is the range of the e-bikes?

Response: Ride Today Community Manager Salma Berumen responded that the bikes are limited to the boundaries of the City of Richmond.

Public Comment: How will the bicycles be dealt with if they die?

Response: Ride Today Community Manager Salma Berumen responded that each bike is tracked by Ride Today, who would have locations and be responsible for addressing.

Public Comment: How are bicycles rented?

Response: Ride Today Community Manager Salma Berumen responded that rentals can only occur through the phone app, which deals with payment information and tracking.

REPORT ON COMMUNITY QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED

Committee member Guerrero reported on the following public feedback that was received during a Richmond Rising presentation to the Iron Triangle Neighborhood Council:

- Concern with installation of bike lanes in areas where traffic and limited parking is already a challenge.
 - o Committee member Guerrero responded that there will be additional community engagement projects regarding the roadway improvement projects (Neighborhood Complete Streets and Richmond Wellness Trail), and that a map of the roadway improvement projects would be shared when available.
- Concern that electric bicycles would be stolen and/or vandalized.
- Concern about sufficient outreach and engagement in project planning.
 - o Committee member Guerrero responded that the grant agreement was recently signed, and engagement efforts were continuing to expand.
- Inquired about whether the grant funding could be used for other projects – for example, pothole repairs.
 - o Committee member Guerrero responded that the grant was primarily intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and therefore could not be repurposed to repair potholes.
- Interest in who is responsible for tree maintenance, especially for trees along Macdonald Avenue.

- Committee member Guerrero responded that, for trees planted as part of Richmond Rising, Groundwork Richmond would be responsible for tree maintenance for the initial planting, after which the City would be responsible. However, Committee member Guerrero indicated that she was unclear whether the specified trees on Macdonald had been planted as part of the Richmond Rising program.
- *During the CSC meeting*, Committee member Castillo expanded the response to include that Groundwork Richmond is responsible for trees planted in public spaces (e.g. street trees, trees in public parks) for the first three years, and that afterward the City would be responsible. When trees are planted at individual residences, the resident agrees to take on responsibility for care of the tree, although Groundwork Richmond can provide support as needed.

No other public feedback was reported.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 7.1: Special Committee Report: Goal and Vision Statement, Committee Priorities, and Bylaws

The Committee discussed the process of revising and reviewing the bylaws, and distributed revised versions to members of the public.

Committee member Castillo asked the Committee whether more than one alternate would be permitted in the bylaws. The Committee agreed to include this in the motion to approve, so long as all alternates had all the information necessary to make decisions, were authorized to make decisions, and were aware of relevant discussions from previous Committee meetings.

The Committee discussed an appropriate timeline to complete the appointment of Community Seats, including completion of the nomination form, community outreach, and appointments. The Committee agreed that the bylaws should be revised to state that community seat appointments would first occur at the June 5th Committee meeting.

The Committee agreed that six Community Seats should be opened, including two representatives from each neighborhood in the Project Area.

The following public comments were received:

Public Comment: Will community members be allowed to vote?

CSC Response: Yes, appointed Community Seats will be given full voting powers, and would be reimbursed for each meeting attended.

Public Comment: Community Seats should be allowed to review and vote the bylaws before they are approved.

CSC Response: Per the MOU between the partners and the Strategic Growth Council, the bylaws must be completed before the CSC can appoint community members. However, the bylaws can be revised at any time.

Public Comment: Will the three neighborhood councils be notified when community seat nominations are being accepted?

CSC Response: Yes, and the nomination form will also be shared on the public listserv and by all project partners.

Public Comment: The Community Seats should be filled as soon as possible.

Committee member Guerrero motioned for City staff to make all suggested revisions and present the updated bylaws at the May 1st Committee meeting for approval. The motion was seconded by Committee member Cantave.

The Committee voted as follows:

In favor:

- Project lead for City of Richmond: Beatriz Guerrero Auna
- Project lead for GRID Alternatives: Ambessa Cantave
- Project lead for Groundwork: Lorena Castillo
- Project lead for Rich City Rides: Mayeli Rico
- Project lead for Trust for Public Land: Terence Wu
- Project lead for UC Berkeley: Alice Bruno (alternate)
- Project lead for Urban Tilth: Chito Floriano

The motion passed.

Item 7.2: Nomination Process for Community Seats

The Committee discussed the nomination process for the Community Seats, including review of the nomination form. Committee member Guerrero confirmed the nomination form would be translated to Spanish once the CSC approved the form, and that printed copies would be available for distribution and submission to the Committee. The Committee also made the following comments:

- Nominee age should be added to the nomination form, so that Committee can ensure seniors and young adults are represented.
- Nominee address should be added to the nomination form, so that Committee members can ensure representatives of all Project Area neighborhoods are included.
- The suggested length of term should be increased to two years, to support historic knowledge and minimize ability of community members to understand and participate in all processes. This should be reduced for young adults and youth. Additionally, a checkbox for whether the nominee is interested/able to serve for two or more years should be added to the form. This allows the Committee to prioritize nominees who can commit to at least two years, but will allow Committee to balance this with overall representation needs (i.e. if a

certain neighborhood can't otherwise fill the two seats).

Committee member Guerrero motioned for City staff to make all suggested revisions and present the updated nomination form at the May 1st Committee meeting for approval. The motion was seconded by Committee member Floriano.

The Committee voted as follows:

In favor:

- Project lead for City of Richmond: Beatriz Guerrero Auna
- Project lead for GRID Alternatives: Ambessa Cantave
- Project lead for Groundwork: Lorena Castillo
- Project lead for Rich City Rides: Mayeli Rico (alternate)
- Project lead for Trust for Public Land: Terence Wu
- Project lead for UC Berkeley: Alice Bruno (alternate)
- Project lead for Urban Tilth: Chito Floriano

The motion passed.

Item 7.3 Review of Leverage Tracking Requirements

The Committee discussed the leverage reporting requirements, which had been reviewed in separate project management meetings. There were no public comments on this item.

Item 7.4 Review of Revised Richmond Rising Pamphlet

The Committee reviewed the revised Richmond Rising pamphlet. There were no public comments on this item.

Item 7.5 Public Kickoff Planning

The Committee reviewed the Earth Day Kickoff outreach materials.

Committee member Castillo asked why all project partner logos were not included in the outreach flyer. Committee member Guerrero responded that the logos that were included were official event sponsors with Urban Tilth. Committee member Guerrero also responded that the mailer that was sent to all addresses in the Project Area included all project partners.

Committee member Guerrero asked which Committee members wanted to be part of the ceremony. Committee member Cantave indicated that MCE/GRID was interested, Committee member Castillo indicated that Groundwork was interested but had several Earth Day events to consider, and other Committee members indicated they would follow up after the meeting.

Committee member Wu requested a run-of-show for the Earth Day kick off. Committee member Guerrero indicated that there would be a physical walk through of the event on April 15th.

The following public questions were received:

Public Comment: Is this event being hosted through **Forage** or Urban Tilth?

CSC Response: Committee member Guerrero responded that Urban Tilth was coordinating.

Public Comment: Will the programming for the kickoff include a presentation on the stage?

CSC Response: Committee member Guerrero responded that there would be a presentation.

Public Comment: Outreach for the Community Seats and the next Committee meeting should happen at the Earth Day Kickoff during tabling.

Committee member Guerrero motioned for Committee members to reach out to the event organizing team to confirm desired speakers. The motion was seconded by Committee member Cantave.

The Committee voted as follows:

In favor:

- Project lead for City of Richmond: Beatriz Guerrero Auna
- Project lead for GRID Alternatives: Ambessa Cantave
- Project lead for Groundwork: Lorena Castillo
- Project lead for Rich City Rides: Mayeli Rico (alternate)
- Project lead for Trust for Public Land: Terence Wu
- Project lead for UC Berkeley: Alice Bruno (alternate)
- Project lead for Urban Tilth: Chito Floriano

The motion passed.

AGENDA REQUESTS FOR NEXT MEETING

The following items were requested to be included in the May 1st agenda:

- Discussion on best practices regarding outreach
- Bylaw review and approval
- Nomination form review and approval
- Discussion on reporting for Indicator Tracking Plan

The Committee did not request any agenda items for the next meeting. Committee member Beatriz Guerrero stated that she would contact Committee member Jason Corburn regarding a presentation of the Indicator Tracking Plan.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

- Urban Forest Advisory Committee meeting is the 3rd Monday of each month at Richmond City Hall from 6-8pm
- Small Business Fair on April 28th

- MCE/GRID: We will be canvassing neighborhoods until mid-June, so if community members reach out to anyone please let them know that the program is legitimate and that they can reach out directly to project managers with any questions.

Additionally, the following public comment was received:

Public Comment: Weeders cannot be used to clear weeds near the trunks of trees, as this damages the weeds. This must be done by hand.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.